(SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Cotton Advisory Board in its last meeting held on 14-2-92 had estimated the mill consumption of cotton in the country during 1991-92 cotton season at 106·25 lakh bales. Government have released 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton for export during 1991-92 cotton season. Government has also permitted the CCI to meet the requirement of cotton of some of our neighbouring countries upto 30,000 bales in the context of bilateral trade agreements. Government had allowed import of upto 2 lakh bales of cotton free of import duty by spinning mills for supply of hank yarn to the handloom sector. However, no import of cotton has taken place so far. The next cotton season will begin on 1-9-92 and no estimates of domestic consumption, export and import of cotton for the same can be made at this stage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The export quota of 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton released by Government for 1991-92 season is open to all exporters. The CCI has been permitted to export cotton upto 30,000 bales as per details given at (a) above.

(d) As against the request of Maharashtra Government for extension of the Scheme of Monopoly Procurement of Cotton in the State for a period of 10 years w.e.f. 1st July, 1990, Government have granted extension to the Scheme for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 1st July, 1990 on the existing terms and conditions with the objective of reviewing the functioning of the Scheme at regular intervals.

Silk Production in Bihar

*376. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average annual production of silk in Bihar and what was its actual production in the State during the last three years;

(b) whether Government provide any Central assistance to Bihar increasing silk production in the State;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what incentives have been given by the State to the silk producers in the State; and

(d) what action Government propose to take for the overall growth of silk production in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The average annual production of silk in the State of Bihar during the five year period (1984-89) was 361 tonnes and the estimated production during each of the last 3 years is as under:—

Year	Production (in tonnes)
1989-90	330
1990-91	370
1991-92	289

(b) to (d) The sericulture schemes are basically formulated and implemented by the State Sericulture Deptt. In order to encourage the silk production in the State, the Central Silk Board is supplementing the efforts of the State Sericulture Deptt. by providing necessary support through the network of its research, extension and training units in the State.

Besides arranging supplies of mulberry cuttings, saplings, disease free layings (dfls) etc., the Central Silk Board has provided assistance to the State for procurement of equipments/chemicals to improve quality of dfls produced in pilot project centres. Further, the Central Silk Board is also implemeting a World Bank|Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project in the Kishanganj, Purnea and Araria districts of the State.